

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : 2: 22-cr-00139  
versus : August 11, 2022  
TYRONE COX, FREDERICK WENDELL :  
MCCRAY, and KEVIN WILLIAM :  
DUKES :  
Defendants. :

TRANSCRIPT OF PLEA  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS,  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

**A P P E A R A N C E S:**

For the Government: ALLESSANDRA E. STEWART  
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Court Reporter:

LISA D. SMITH, RPR, CRR  
Official Court Reporter  
P.O. Box 835  
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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography,  
transcript produced by computer.

1 || *(The following proceedings commenced at 2:00 p.m.)*

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Take your seats, please.

3 DEPUTY CLERK: Y'all haven't heard anything from  
4 Ms. Richardson-Bax?

5 MS. STEWART: Your Honor, I know that she was on her  
6 way. She did have to drive two hours. And so, that's why  
7 there was some confusion as to whether or not her client was  
8 going to be able to be transported today. So, I anticipate  
9 that maybe she's in traffic.

10 DEPUTY CLERK: I did e-mail her just to let her know  
11 that it was definitely going forward.

12 MS. STEWART: And I let her know as well.

13 THE COURT: But her client is in the courtroom here?

14 MS. STEWART: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MS. STEWART: And, your Honor, it would be the  
17 government's preference, for expedience, to do all three  
18 defendants together.

19 THE COURT: Well, it's for my expedience as well.

20                    Does anybody have her phone number? Can we try to  
21 call her right quick?

22 MS. STEWART: She texted me, so I can try to call  
23 her.

24 || THE COURT: In the meantime -- yes, sir?

25 MR. MURPHY: If I could approach? It's about a

1       separate case, just a procedural question for you.

2           THE COURT: Yeah. Yeah.

3           *(Off-the-record discussion.)*

4           THE COURT: So, what's the word, ma'am?

5           MS. STEWART: Your Honor, I had a text from defense  
6       counsel who said that she was running 15 minutes behind due to  
7       traffic. And I told her that we were waiting for her.

8           THE COURT: Okay. Well, I hate for you guys to get  
9       held up. I don't mind going forward. I think we should go  
10      forward, and let's do what we can. And then, you know, if  
11      you've got another AUSA who can stick around --

12           MS. STEWART: No. I mean, I'll stick around,  
13       your Honor.

14           THE COURT: I don't want to have to do it twice,  
15       but --

16           MR. TOPOREK: Your Honor, I have no objection.

17           MR. MURPHY: And that's fine, Judge.

18           THE COURT: I've got another hearing myself at 3:00.

19           MS. STEWART: Oh, okay.

20           THE COURT: Sorry about that, Marshals, you know,  
21       bringing them all in here.

22           MR. TOPOREK: Ma'am, would you like me to give this  
23       to the clerk?

24           THE COURT: Yeah. Thank you. I may go ahead and  
25       start in about one minute though and then do hers.

1                   MR. TOPOREK: I've heard you've got a graduation this  
2 afternoon.

3                   THE COURT: We do. You're all welcome to come.  
4 Yeah, we're looking forward to that.

5                   MR. TOPOREK: That is great.

6                   THE COURT: Thank you.

7                   We're going to go ahead and get started. And I don't  
8 know if the marshals want to keep the defendant in the  
9 courtroom whose lawyer is not here. Whatever suits you all.  
10 I really appreciate y'all going to the effort here. So, it's  
11 whatever, but I'm going to go ahead and proceed.

12                  We're going to do them all at once -- two of them at  
13 once?

14                  MS. STEWART: That's fine, your Honor.

15                  THE COURT: All right. Yep. Let's go ahead and do  
16 that. And we're pleading to indictments, correct?

17                  MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

18                  THE COURT: Not informations?

19                  MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

20                  THE COURT: Okay.

21                  MS. STEWART: And as a housekeeping matter, the  
22 government did move to dismiss Count 19 of the indictment.

23                  THE COURT: Okay.

24                  MS. STEWART: And we would just ask that that be  
25 granted before the defendants enter their pleas.

1                   THE COURT: It's granted.

2                   And do we have copies of the plea agreements down  
3 there, Madam Clerk?

4                   MR. MURPHY: It's straight-up, Judge. No plea  
5 agreements.

6                   THE COURT: No plea agreements for anybody?

7                   MR. MURPHY: No, ma'am.

8                   THE COURT: Okay. All right. Let's go ahead, Madam  
9 Clerk. And let's have -- the defendants that are pleading,  
10 let's just have them stand up to the podium next to their  
11 lawyers.

12                  DEPUTY CLERK: All right. So, this would be Mr.  
13 Frederick McCray and Mr. Tyrone Cox?

14                  MR. MURPHY: Yes, ma'am.

15                  DEPUTY CLERK: Okay.

16                  MS. STEWART: And, your Honor, I don't know if you  
17 need me to call the case, but --

18                  THE COURT: Yeah, in a second. Let's just let them  
19 get situated. So, it's Mr. McCray on the left standing next  
20 to his counsel.

21                  All right. So, go ahead and swear them in, Madam  
22 Clerk.

23                  DEPUTY CLERK: Yes, ma'am.

24                  *(Defendants sworn.)*

25                  THE COURT: Okay. So, I'm going to go from left to

1 right, Mr. Murphy. And you represent Mr. Cox.

2 And, Mr. Toporek -- wait.

3 Mr. Murphy, you represent Mr. McCray?

4 MR. MURPHY: That's correct, yes.

5 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek, you represent Mr. Cox.

6 And I'm going to go from left to right.

7 So, Mr. Murphy, have you been able to communicate  
8 just fine with your client?

9 MR. MURPHY: I have, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: And your client, for the record, is Mr.  
11 Tyrone Cox.

12 And let me ask. Madam U.S. Attorney, did you call  
13 the case in full?

14 MS. STEWART: I did not, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

16 MS. STEWART: Your Honor, the United States calls the  
17 matter of the United States vs. Frederick McCray and Tyrone  
18 Cox; case number 2: 22-cr-139.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And so, you've been able to  
20 communicate just fine with your client, Mr. Murphy?

21 MR. MURPHY: I have, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: And that's Mr. McCray.

23 And, Mr. Toporek, you've been able to communicate  
24 just fine with your client, Mr. Cox?

25 MR. TOPOREK: I have, your Honor.

1                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Murphy, have you explained to  
2 your client the charge or charges contained in the indictment  
3 and the possible punishment and his constitutional rights,  
4 including the right to a jury trial?

5                   MR. MURPHY: I have, your Honor.

6                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek, have you done the same?

7                   MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am.

8                   THE COURT: And, in your opinion, does your client  
9 understand the charges, the punishment, and his rights, Mr.  
10 Murphy?

11                  MR. MURPHY: He does, your Honor.

12                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

13                  MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am, he does.

14                  THE COURT: And how does your client indicate he  
15 wishes to plead, Mr. Murphy?

16                  MR. MURPHY: Guilty, your Honor.

17                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

18                  MR. TOPOREK: He wishes to plead guilty, your Honor.

19                  THE COURT: And do you agree with that decision, Mr.  
20 Murphy?

21                  MR. MURPHY: I do, your Honor.

22                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek, do you agree with that  
23 decision on behalf of Mr. Cox?

24                  MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am.

25                  THE COURT: All right. And from your own

1 investigation of the facts and circumstances of this case, do  
2 you feel that the government could produce sufficient evidence  
3 to convince a jury of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and  
4 that if he were to stand trial, his conviction would be  
5 probable?

6 MR. MURPHY: I do, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

8 MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: And, Mr. Murphy, has your client been  
10 ordered to submit to a mental examination to determine his  
11 competency?

12 MR. MURPHY: No, ma'am.

13 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

14 MR. TOPOREK: No, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: And y'all are free to take your masks  
16 down when you're talking, if that helps. I know it's  
17 uncomfortable. And your clients can as well if they want  
18 while they're talking, that's fine. And just put them back on  
19 when we're done, all right?

20 Do you have any doubt as to your client's competency  
21 to plead, Mr. Murphy?

22 MR. MURPHY: I do not, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

24 MR. TOPOREK: No, ma'am, I don't.

25 THE COURT: Okay. So, Mr. McCray, and Mr. Cox, you

1 are both now under oath. And if you answer any of my  
2 questions falsely, your answers could later be used against  
3 you in another prosecution for making a false statement or  
4 perjury.

5 Do you understand, Mr. McCray?

6 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

7 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

8 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: And I've been informed that both of you  
10 wish to change the pleas you previously entered of not guilty  
11 before the U.S. Magistrate Judge to guilty.

12 Is that correct, Mr. McCray?

13 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

15 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: But before I can accept your pleas, I've  
17 got to make sure that they're made freely and voluntarily, so  
18 I'm going to ask you some questions. If you don't understand  
19 the questions, just let me know so I can explain them to you.  
20 And you all can stop and talk to your lawyers about any matter  
21 at any time during this proceeding. And just let me know,  
22 raise your hand, and I'll let you all talk privately, if  
23 that's what you need to do.

24 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

25 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

1           THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

2           DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

3           THE COURT: So, Mr. McCray, how old are you?

4           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Forty-one.

5           THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

6           DEFENDANT COX: Forty-one.

7           THE COURT: And where were you born, Mr. McCray?

8           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Charleston, South Carolina.

9           THE COURT: All right. Is this the lawyer for --  
10           that we're missing?

11           MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

12           THE COURT: All right. Well, let's scratch and start  
13           all over again. Bring her on up. Let's go.

14           MS. STEWART: Your Honor, do you wish me to re-call  
15           it?

16           THE COURT: Yes.

17           MS. STEWART: Your Honor, recalling the matter of  
18           United States vs. Frederick McCray, Tyrone Cox, and Kevin  
19           Dukes; Case No. 2: 22-cr-139.

20           THE COURT: Go ahead and swear them in.

21           (**Defendants sworn.**)

22           THE COURT: All right. So, now, Mr. Murphy, it's  
23           easier for me to just do it all over again. We hadn't gotten  
24           that far.

25           You've been able to communicate just fine with your

1 client, Mr. McCray, right?

2 MR. MURPHY: I have, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. And, Ms. Bax, have you been  
4 able to communicate just fine with your client, Mr. Dukes?

5 MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek, on behalf of Mr. Cox?

7 MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: And have you explained to your client the  
9 charge or charges contained in the indictment, the possible  
10 punishment, and his constitutional rights, including the right  
11 to a jury trial, Mr. Murphy?

12 MR. MURPHY: Yes, ma'am.

13 THE COURT: And, Ms. Bax?

14 MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

16 MR. TOPOREK: I have, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: And in your opinions, do your clients  
18 understand the charges, the punishment, and their rights?

19 Mr. Murphy?

20 MR. MURPHY: He does.

21 THE COURT: Ms. Bax?

22 MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

24 MR. TOPOREK: Mr. Cox does, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.

1                   And how does your client indicate he wishes to plead,  
2 Mr. Murphy.

3                   MR. MURPHY: Guilty, your Honor.

4                   THE COURT: And, Ms. Bax?

5                   MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Guilty, your Honor.

6                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

7                   MR. TOPOREK: Guilty, your Honor.

8                   THE COURT: And do you agree with that decision, Mr.  
9 Murphy?

10                  MR. MURPHY: I do.

11                  THE COURT: Ms. Bax?

12                  MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Yes, your Honor.

13                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

14                  MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am, your Honor.

15                  THE COURT: And from your own investigation of the  
16 facts and circumstances of this case, do you feel that the  
17 government could produce sufficient evidence to convince a  
18 jury of your client's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and if  
19 they were to stand trial, that their conviction would be  
20 probable, Mr. Murphy?

21                  MR. MURPHY: I do, your Honor.

22                  THE COURT: And, Ms. Bax?

23                  MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Yes, your Honor.

24                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

25                  MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am, your Honor.

1                   THE COURT: And have any of your clients been ordered  
2 to submit to a mental examination to determine their  
3 competency to stand trial?

4                   Mr. Murphy, on behalf of Mr. McCray?

5                   MR. MURPHY: No, your Honor.

6                   THE COURT: Ms. Bax, on behalf of Mr. Dukes?

7                   MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: No, your Honor.

8                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek, on behalf of Mr. Cox?

9                   MR. TOPOREK: He as not, your Honor.

10                  THE COURT: And do you have any doubt as to your  
11 client's competence to plead at this time, Mr. Murphy?

12                  MR. MURPHY: No, your Honor.

13                  THE COURT: Ms. Bax?

14                  MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: No, your Honor.

15                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

16                  MR. TOPOREK: I don't, your Honor.

17                  THE COURT: And so, now Mr. McCray, Mr. Cox, and Mr.  
18 Dukes, you are all now under oath. And if you answer any of  
19 my questions falsely, your answers could later be used against  
20 you in another prosecution for perjury or making a false  
21 statement.

22                  Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

23                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

24                  THE COURT: Do you understand that, Mr. Dukes?

25                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

1                   THE COURT: Do you understand that, Mr. Cox?

2                   DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

3                   THE COURT: And I've been informed that each of you  
4                   wish to change the pleas you previously entered of not guilty  
5                   to guilty today.

6                   Is that true, Mr. McCray?

7                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

8                   THE COURT: And is that true, Mr. Dukes?

9                   DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

10                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

11                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

12                  THE COURT: Before I can accept these pleas, I'm  
13                  going to have to make sure that the pleas are made freely and  
14                  voluntarily from each of you, so I'm going to ask each of you  
15                  some questions. And if you don't understand my questions, let  
16                  me know. I'll try to explain it to you. We can call a  
17                  timeout at any time, and I'll let you have a private  
18                  conversation with your lawyer if you need to talk to them  
19                  before you answer questions.

20                  Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

21                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

22                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

23                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

24                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

25                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

1                   THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. McCray, how old are  
2 you?

3                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Forty-one.

4                   THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

5                   DEFENDANT DUKES: Thirty-six.

6                   THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

7                   DEFENDANT COX: Forty-one.

8                   THE COURT: And where were you born, Mr. McCray?

9                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Charleston, South Carolina.

10                  THE COURT: All right. And, Mr. Dukes?

11                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Charleston, South Carolina.

12                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

13                  DEFENDANT COX: Charleston, South Carolina.

14                  THE COURT: How far did you get in school, Mr.  
15 McCray?

16                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: GED.

17                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

18                  DEFENDANT DUKES: GED.

19                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

20                  DEFENDANT COX: Tenth grade.

21                  THE COURT: Tenth grade. Okay.

22                  And what was the last job you had, Mr. McCray?

23                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Allied Crawford Steel.

24                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

25                  DEFENDANT DUKES: The Crab House downtown.

1                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

2                   DEFENDANT COX: At a landscaping company.

3                   THE COURT: Landscaping. Have you ever been treated  
4 for alcohol abuse or drug abuse, Mr. McCray?

5                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, your Honor.

6                   THE COURT: When was that?

7                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Probably 2000, something like  
8 that.

9                   THE COURT: About five years ago, 10 years ago, what?

10                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, 2000.

11                  THE COURT: Oh, 2000. That's 22 years ago. Okay.

12                  Are you taking anything now, any kind of medication or drugs  
13 or alcohol?

14                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

15                  THE COURT: All right. And how about you, Mr. Dukes?  
16                  Have you ever been treated for alcohol abuse, or drug abuse,  
17 or mental illness?

18                  DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

19                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

20                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

21                  THE COURT: You have?

22                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

23                  THE COURT: And when was that?

24                  DEFENDANT COX: 2019, I believe.

25                  THE COURT: All right. Did you finish the program?

1 DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: All right. So, has any of you taken any  
3 medication, drugs, or alcohol of any type in the last  
4 24 hours, Mr. McCray?

5 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: What did you take?

7 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Diabetic medicine.

8 THE COURT: Is that all?

9 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: Does it interfere with your ability to  
11 think and understand what's going on here today?

12 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

13 THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes, how about you?

14 DEFENDANT DUKES: Diabetic medication and high blood  
15 pressure medicine.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And does that interfere with your  
17 ability to understand?

18 DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

19 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

20 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: What did you take?

22 DEFENDANT COX: Zyrtec.

23 THE COURT: What's that?

24 DEFENDANT COX: For allergies.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Does it interfere with your

1       ability to understand what's going on?

2           DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

3           THE COURT: So, are you aware of any physical,  
4       emotional or nervous problem that might keep you from  
5       understanding what you're doing, Mr. McCray?

6           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

7           THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

8           DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

9           THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

10          DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

11          THE COURT: Do you understand that you're pleading  
12       guilty, Mr. McCray?

13          DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

14          THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

15          DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

16          THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

17          DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

18          THE COURT: Do you agree, Mr. Murphy, that your  
19       client knows and understands what he's doing?

20          MR. MURPHY: I do agree, your Honor.

21          THE COURT: And, Ms. Bax, do you agree that your  
22       client knows and understands what he's doing?

23          MS. RICHARDSON-BAX: Yes, your Honor.

24          THE COURT: And, Mr. Toporek?

25          MR. TOPOREK: He does, your Honor.

1                   THE COURT: It appears to me that Mr. McCray, Mr. Cox  
2 and Mr. Dukes are all competent to plead to the charges, and I  
3 so find for purposes of the record.

4                   So, I'm going to ask each of you a series of  
5 questions about your lawyers that we do for every time we do a  
6 plea like this. All right?

7                   So, are you satisfied, Mr. McCray, with the manner in  
8 which your lawyer has advised you and represented you?

9                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

10                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

11                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

12                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

13                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

14                  THE COURT: And have you talked with your lawyer for  
15 as often and as long as you felt it was necessary for him to  
16 represent you, Mr. McCray?

17                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

18                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

19                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

20                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

21                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

22                  THE COURT: Do you a need any more time to talk to  
23 your lawyer, Mr. McCray?

24                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, your Honor.

25                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

1 DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

3 DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: Did you understand all your conversations  
5 with your lawyer, Mr. McCray?

6 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

8 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

10 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am, I do.

11 THE COURT: Have your lawyers done everything for you  
12 that you felt they could have or should have done, Mr. McCray?

13 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

15 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

17 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: Have your lawyers failed to do anything  
19 you asked him or her to do, Mr. McCray?

20 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

22 DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

24 DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

25 THE COURT: Is there anything you wanted your lawyer

1 to do for you before today that he or she hasn't done, Mr.  
2 McCray?

3 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

5 DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

7 DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Are you completely satisfied then with  
9 your lawyer's services, Mr. McCray?

10 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

11 THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

12 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

13 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

14 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: Do you have any complaint at all that you  
16 want to make to the Court about your lawyer, Mr. McCray?

17 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

19 DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

21 DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: So, under the Constitution and laws of  
23 the United States, you each have a right to plead not guilty.  
24 And if you plead not guilty, you're entitled to a trial by a  
25 jury, during which you'd have the right to the assistance of

1       your lawyer for your defense on the charges contained in the  
2       indictment.

3           Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

4           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

5           THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

6           DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

7           THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

8           DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

9           THE COURT: If you were to go to trial, you'd be  
10        presumed to be innocent, and the government would be required  
11        to prove you guilty by competent evidence and beyond a  
12        reasonable doubt before you could be found guilty, and you  
13        wouldn't have to prove that you were innocent.

14           Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

15           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

16           THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

17           DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

18           THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

19           DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

20           THE COURT: So, in the course of a trial, the  
21        witnesses for the government would have to come to court and  
22        testify in your presence, and your lawyers could cross-examine  
23        those prosecution witnesses, object to evidence offered by the  
24        government, and offer evidence on your behalf.

25           Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

1 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

3 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

5 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: At a trial you'd have the right to  
7 testify if you chose to do so, but you'd also have the right  
8 not to testify. And no inference or suggestion of guilt could  
9 be drawn from the fact that you didn't testify.

10 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

11 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

13 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

15 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: At a trial you'd have the right to the  
17 issuance of subpoenas for compulsory process to compel the  
18 attendance of witnesses to come into court and testify for you  
19 in your defense.

20 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

21 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

23 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

25 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

1                   THE COURT: If you plead guilty and I accept your  
2 plea, you're going to waive your right to that jury trial and  
3 the other rights I've discussed, there won't be a trial, and  
4 I'll enter a judgment of guilty and sentence you on the basis  
5 of your guilty plea after considering a presentence report.

6                   Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

7                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

8                   THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

9                   DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

10                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

11                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

12                  THE COURT: And if you plead guilty and I accept your  
13 plea, you'll also each have to give up your right not to  
14 incriminate yourself, since I'm going to ask you some  
15 questions about what you did in order to satisfy myself that  
16 you're guilty as charged, and you'll each have to acknowledge  
17 your guilt here in open court on the record.

18                  Do you understand, Mr. McCray?

19                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

20                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

21                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

22                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

23                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

24                  THE COURT: So, you may have given an incriminating  
25 statement in this case. If you plead guilty, you waive or

1 give up the right to contest or challenge whether any such  
2 statement was made freely and voluntarily in accordance with  
3 all your constitutional rights.

4 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

5 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

7 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

9 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: You may have a defense or defenses to the  
11 charges against you. Do you understand that if you plead  
12 guilty, you waive or give up any defense or defenses to the  
13 charge against you, Mr. McCray?

14 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

16 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

18 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

19 THE COURT: If you plead guilty and I accept your  
20 plea, you may be required to forfeit or make restitution to  
21 the victim or victims of your acts, either by payment of money  
22 or in personal service, as might be directed by the Court. If  
23 restitution or personal service is ordered, failure to comply  
24 could be a basis for revoking any period of supervision.

25 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

1 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

3 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

5 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Mr. McCray, are you on probation or  
7 parole for anything else?

8 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes, are you on probation or parole  
10 for anything else?

11 DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

13 DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am, I'm not.

14 THE COURT: Do you understand that when you plead  
15 guilty, you admit the truth of the charge that's been made  
16 against you, Mr. McCray?

17 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

19 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

21 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: And now that I've discussed your rights  
23 with you, do you still want to plead guilty, Mr. McCray?

24 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

1 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

3 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: So, the offense or offenses to which  
5 you're pleading guilty are felonies. And if your pleas are  
6 accepted, you're going to be adjudged guilty of that offense.  
7 And such adjudication may deprive you of valuable civil  
8 rights, such as the right to vote, the right to hold public  
9 office, the right to serve on a jury, and the right to ever  
10 again possess a firearm or even a single piece of ammunition.

11 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

12 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

14 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

16 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: Do any of these offenses carry a maximum  
18 of 20 or more, Madam U.S. Attorney?

19 MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: So, if the offense carries a maximum of  
21 20 years or more, a probationary sentence is unavailable under  
22 18 U.S.C. Section 3561(a)(1).

23 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

24 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

1 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

3 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: If it's applicable, you may be required  
5 to forfeit certain property to the government.

6 Do you understand, Mr. McCray?

7 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

9 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

11 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: If you plead guilty, then I'll have to  
13 determine your sentences under the Sentencing Reform Act of  
14 1984. And the Sentencing Commission has issued guidelines for  
15 judges to follow in formulating sentences in criminal cases.  
16 So, I'm required to consider the statutory factors under 18  
17 Section 3553(a) as well as those advisory guidelines.

18 And have you and your lawyers talked about how those  
19 guidelines and statutory factors might affect your sentence,  
20 Mr. McCray?

21 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

23 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

24 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

25 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

1                   THE COURT: So, your lawyers can only give you an  
2 estimate of what your guideline range might be.

3                   Do you understand that the sentence I may impose may  
4 be different from any estimate that your lawyer might have  
5 given you, Mr. McCray?

6                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

7                   THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

8                   DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

9                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

10                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

11                  THE COURT: I'm not even going to be able to  
12 determine the guideline sentence for your cases until after  
13 the presentence report's been done, you and the government  
14 have had a chance to look at the presentence report and object  
15 if you wish.

16                  Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

17                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

18                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

19                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

20                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

21                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

22                  THE COURT: So, your sentencing ranges can be  
23 affected by what is called relevant conduct. And that means  
24 you could be held accountable for conduct in which you were  
25 directly involved in preparation for, during, or in the course

1 of attempting to avoid responsibility for the offense with  
2 which you've been charged. It also means that where you have  
3 been involved in any jointly undertaken criminal activity with  
4 other people, you will be held accountable for the conduct of  
5 other people if it was both in furtherance of your jointly  
6 undertaken activity, and reasonably foreseeable in connection  
7 with that activity.

8 Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

9 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

11 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

13 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: Did you all discuss that concept of  
15 relevant conduct with your lawyers, Mr. McCray?

16 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

18 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

20 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: After it's been determined what  
22 guidelines will apply to your cases, then I've got the  
23 authority, in some circumstances, to impose a sentence that's  
24 either more severe or less severe than that called for by the  
25 guidelines.

1                   Do you understand, Mr. McCray?

2                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

3                   THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

4                   DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

5                   THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

6                   DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

7                   THE COURT: Under some circumstances, you or the  
8                   government may have the right to appeal any sentence that I  
9                   might impose.

10                  Do you understand, Mr. McCray?

11                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

12                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

13                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

14                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

15                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

16                  THE COURT: So, parole has been abolished, and if  
17                  you're sentenced to prison, you won't be released on parole.

18                  Do you understand, Mr. McCray?

19                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

20                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

21                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

22                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

23                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

24                  THE COURT: So, under the Sentencing Reform Act, the  
25                  Court may order a term of supervised release to follow

1       imprisonment in any case. But the Court must order a term of  
2       supervised release if a sentence of more than one year is  
3       imposed or if it's required by statute.

4                   Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

5                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

6                   THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

7                   DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

8                   THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

9                   DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

10                  THE COURT: So, when you're placed on supervised  
11        release, you are restricted as to the places you might go and  
12        the things you might do, and you must report to the  
13        authorities on a regular basis.

14                  Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

15                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

16                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

17                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

18                  THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

19                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

20                  THE COURT: If you were to violate any term or  
21        condition of that supervised release, your supervision could  
22        be revoked and you could be given more time in prison.

23                  Do you understand that, Mr. McCray?

24                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

25                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

1 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

3 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: So, you've heard your lawyers tell me  
5 that they've explained to you the charges against you, the  
6 possible punishment, and your constitutional rights. And they  
7 say that you understand all these things.

8 Is that true, Mr. McCray?

9 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

11 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

13 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: Do you understand what's going on here  
15 this afternoon, Mr. McCray?

16 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

18 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

20 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Have you each received a copy of the  
22 indictment, which is the written charges made against you in  
23 this case, Mr. McCray?

24 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

1 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

3 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: Have you discussed with your lawyers the  
5 charges in the indictment and the case in general, Mr. McCray?

6 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

8 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

10 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

11 THE COURT: Have you told your lawyer everything  
12 about your case, Mr. McCray?

13 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

15 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

17 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: So, I'd ask Madam U.S. Attorney to please  
19 summarize the indictment and place the elements and the  
20 penalties, including any minimum mandatories if there are any.

21 MR. TOPOREK: Your Honor, may I ask the U.S. Attorney  
22 a quick question off the record?

23 THE COURT: Sure. Uh-huh.

24 MR. TOPOREK: Thank you.

25 *(Discussion off the record.)*

1                   THE COURT: Okay. Y'all are all squared?

2                   MR. TOPOREK: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

3                   THE COURT: Madam U.S. attorney.

4                   MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

5                   The charges in the indictment -- I'll break them down  
6 by defendant. But McCray is charged in Count 1, which is a  
7 conspiracy count. He is charged with being attributable --  
8 accountable to five kilograms of cocaine, 500 grams of  
9 methamphetamine, and a quantity of heroin as part of this  
10 conspiracy.

11                  He is charged in Count 2 with possession with intent  
12 to distribute 28 grams of cocaine base; and Count 3 with a  
13 924(c) charge, which means carrying a firearm in furtherance  
14 of a drug-trafficking crime; and Count 4, with felon in  
15 possession of a firearm and ammunition; and then in Counts 16,  
16 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 26, which are nine counts of  
17 unlawful use of a communication facility.

18                  Defendant Cox is charged in Count 1 of the conspiracy  
19 with five kilograms of cocaine. He is charged in Count 5 with  
20 possession with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of  
21 cocaine base, and also in Count 10 with the same charge. He  
22 is charged in Count 6 with a 924(c) charge for carrying a  
23 firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. And he is  
24 charged in Count 7 with felon in possession -- unlawful  
25 possession of ammunition. He is also charged in Counts 21,

1 26, 27 and 28, which is four counts of unlawful use of a  
2 communication facility.

3 Defendant Dukes is charged in Count 1 with  
4 conspiracy. And his attributable weight is 500 grams of  
5 cocaine, a quantity of methamphetamine, and a quantity of  
6 heroin. He is also charged in Count 17 with a single count of  
7 unlawful use of a communication facility.

8 The elements of those charges are as follows: For  
9 Count 1, which is a conspiracy to distribute cocaine,  
10 methamphetamine and heroin, the elements are, one, that there  
11 was an agreement between the defendant and another person to  
12 distribute and/or possess with intent to distribute, cocaine,  
13 cocaine base, methamphetamine and heroin; two, that the  
14 defendant knew of this agreement or conspiracy; three, that  
15 the defendant knowingly and voluntarily participated in or  
16 became a part of this agreement or conspiracy; and four, the  
17 defendant is accountable for at least the amount of narcotics  
18 charged in the indictment. Again, that being, for McCray,  
19 five kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a  
20 detectable amount of cocaine, 500 grams or more of a mixture  
21 or substance containing a detectable amount of  
22 methamphetamine, and a quantity of heroin.

23 As to Defendant Cox, we would need to additionally  
24 prove that five -- that the amount accountable to him is five  
25 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a

1 detectable amount of cocaine.

2                   As it pertains to Defendant Dukes, the government  
3 would be responsible for proving that the amount attributable  
4 to Dukes is 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance  
5 containing a detectable amount of cocaine, a quantity of  
6 methamphetamine, and a quantity of heroin.

7                   As to Count 2, which is McCray being charged in that  
8 count, and Counts 5 and 10, in which Cox is being charged with  
9 possession with intent to distribute and distribution of  
10 various substances, the government would need to prove, one,  
11 that the defendant possessed the amount of controlled  
12 substance alleged in the indictment; two, that the defendant  
13 knew that the substance possessed was a controlled substance  
14 under the law at the time of possession; three, that the  
15 defendant did so with the intent -- he possessed with the  
16 intent to distribute the controlled substance; and four, that  
17 the amount possessed or distributed equals at least the amount  
18 alleged in the indictment. And those charges, 28 grams or  
19 more of cocaine base.

20                   For Count 3, as to Defendant McCray, and Count 6 as  
21 to Defendant Cox, they're both charged with possession of a  
22 firearm in furtherance of drug-trafficking, in violation of 18  
23 U.S.C. 924(c), the government would need to prove the  
24 following elements: One, that the defendant committed a  
25 federal drug-trafficking crime; two, the defendant knowingly

1 used, carried, or possessed a firearm; and three, that the  
2 defendant's use or carrying of the firearm or possession of  
3 the firearm was during and in relation to -- or possession --  
4 I apologize. Possession of a firearm was in furtherance of a  
5 drug-trafficking crime.

6 As to Counts 4 as it pertains to Defendant McCray,  
7 and Count 7 as it pertains to Defendant Cox, they are both  
8 charged with felony possession of a firearm and/or ammunition,  
9 the government would need to prove, one, that the defendant  
10 knowingly possessed a firearm or ammunition; two, at the time  
11 he possessed the firearm or ammunition, the defendant had been  
12 previously convicted of a crime, punishable by imprisonment  
13 for a term exceeding one year; three, that the defendant knew  
14 that he was a felon or prohibited person; four, that the  
15 possession of the firearm or ammunition was in or affecting  
16 interstate commerce, meaning that the firearm or ammunition  
17 was shipped, transported in interstate or foreign commerce,  
18 where the firearm and ammunition received was shipped,  
19 transported in interstate for foreign commerce.

20 As to the unlawful use of a communication facility  
21 count, which are Counts 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 and  
22 26, 27 and 28, the government would need to prove, one, that  
23 the defendant knowingly used a communication facility. In  
24 this instance, for each charge, that would be a cellphone;  
25 and, two, with the intent to commit, cause or facilitate the

1 commission of a drug felony; in this case, conspiracy to  
2 commit -- to possess with intent to distribute and to  
3 distribute narcotics. Those are the elements.

4 Your Honor, would you like me to proceed with the  
5 penalties now?

6 THE COURT: Sure. Thank you.

7 MS. STEWART: As to Count 1, the conspiracy charge  
8 for defendants McCray and Cox, as to the weight that is  
9 attributable that qualifies for a mandatory minimum under  
10 841(b)(1)(A), that is a Class A felony, which, the mandatory  
11 minimum is 10 years up to life imprisonment. The fine is a  
12 maximum of \$10 million; the supervised release of up to five  
13 years; and a special assessment of a hundred dollars. If the  
14 defendant has one or more prior qualifying convictions of a  
15 serious drug felony or a serious violent felony, and the  
16 government had provided proper notice under 851, it would have  
17 been imprisonment of at least 15 years and up to life, a fine  
18 of up to \$20 million, supervised release up to 10 years, and a  
19 special assessment of a hundred dollars. And if the defendant  
20 has two or more prior qualifying convictions, and the  
21 government had filed the 851 notifications, it would have been  
22 imprisonment of at least 25 years and up to life.

23 Your Honor, the government has not filed 851 notices.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Madam Newly Anointed Chief of the  
25 Charleston Division U.S. Probation Office, Ms. Frye,

1 congratulations. And, yes, what are you correcting us on?

2 PROBATION OFFICER: The supervised release terms are  
3 a mandatory minimum. They're actually up to life.

4 MS. STEWART: Oh, I apologize.

5 PROBATION OFFICER: Our minimum, and then up to life,  
6 your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

8 MS. STEWART: Thank you for the correction.

9 THE COURT: All right. Anything further?

10 MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Of course. Of course.

12 MS. STEWART: For Count 1, Count 2, Count 5 and Count  
13 10, which are both conspiracy and possession with intent to  
14 distribute quantities that qualify for the 841(b)(1)(B)  
15 weight, those are Class B felonies, with a mandatory minimum  
16 of imprisonment of five years up to 40 years, a fine of up to  
17 \$5 million, supervised release for at least four years,  
18 special assessment of a hundred dollars, and if the defendant  
19 has one or more prior qualifying convictions, imprisonment of  
20 at least 10 years and up to life, a fine up to \$8 million,  
21 supervised release of up to eight years, and a special  
22 assessment of a hundred dollars.

23 As to Count 1 and Count 5, which are conspiracy as  
24 well as possession with intent to distribute a C quantity,  
25 those are all Class C felonies, which is a maximum period of

1       imprisonment of not more than 20 years, a fine of a million  
2       dollars, supervised release for at least three years, special  
3       assessment of a hundred dollars, and if the defendant has one  
4       or more qualifying convictions, imprisonment of up to 30  
5       years, a fine up to \$2 million, supervised release of six  
6       years, and a special assessment of hundred dollars.

7               As to Counts 3 and 6, which involve possession of a  
8       firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, that is, if it is  
9       possessed in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime, it is a  
10       Class A felony with a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment  
11       of not less than five years, and a maximum term of life  
12       imprisonment consecutive to each and every other count, a fine  
13       of up to \$250,000, supervised release for five years, and a  
14       special assessment of a hundred dollars.

15               And, your Honor, I don't believe any of the  
16       enhancements apply in this case, so I'm not going to read  
17       those enhancements.

18               As to Count 4 and Count 7, felony possession of a  
19       firearm and/or ammunition, these are Class C felonies with  
20       imprisonment of not more than 10 years, a fine of up to  
21       \$250,000, supervised release for three years, special  
22       assessment of a hundred dollars, and if the defendant has at  
23       least three prior qualifying convictions for a violent felony  
24       or serious drug offense, under 18 U.S.C. Section 924(e), a  
25       mandatory term of imprisonment of 15 years and a maximum term

1 of imprisonment of life, a fine of \$250,000, and a term of  
2 supervised release of not more than five years in addition to  
3 any term of imprisonment, plus a special assessment of a  
4 hundred dollars.

5 And as to Count 16, all of the unlawful use of a  
6 communication facility counts, which are 16, 17, 18, 20, 21,  
7 22, 23, 24, 26 and 27 and 28, those are Class E felonies,  
8 which are subject to imprisonment for not more than four  
9 years, a fine of \$250,000, supervised release for one year,  
10 and a special assessment of a hundred dollars, and if the  
11 defendant has one or more prior qualifying convictions for  
12 violations of 843, a federal narcotic statute, imprisonment  
13 for not more than eight years, a fine of \$250,000, and a term  
14 of supervised release of not more than three years in addition  
15 to any term of imprisonment, plus a special assessment of a  
16 hundred dollars.

17 THE COURT: Okay. You can breathe now.

18 Okay. Having heard all of that, and having gone over  
19 your cases thoroughly with your lawyers, do you understand the  
20 nature of the charges against you and the range of possible  
21 punishments, Mr. McCray?

22 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

23 THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

24 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

25 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

1 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: And, do you still want to plead guilty,  
3 Mr. McCray?

4 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

6 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

7 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

8 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: And there are minimum mandatory sentences  
10 in regards to the firearms charges, correct, Madam U.S.  
11 Attorney?

12 MS. STEWART: That is correct, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: And those are between five and seven  
14 years on those charges?

15 MS. STEWART: I apologize, your Honor. It's the --  
16 are you talking about the 924(c) charges?

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MS. STEWART: Yes. There's a mandatory minimum of  
19 five years for each of those charges.

20 THE COURT: Consecutive to --

21 MS. STEWART: Correct.

22 THE COURT: -- any other count.

23 MS. STEWART: Correct.

24 THE COURT: And any other sentence they might receive  
25 on any other count.

1           Is that right, Madam Chief U.S. Probation Officer?

2           PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, ma'am.

3           THE COURT: Okay. Good. All right.

4           So, do you still want to plead guilty, Mr. McCray?

5           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

6           THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

7           DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

8           THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

9           DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

10          THE COURT: Did you commit this offense, Mr. McCray?

11          DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

12          THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

13          DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

14          THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

15          DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

16          THE COURT: So, I find each of the defendants fully  
17          comprehend and understand the general nature of the charges  
18          against them and generally what elements the government would  
19          have to prove if a trial were held. There are no plea  
20          agreements.

21          But is there any other understanding or anything of  
22          any sort?

23          MS. STEWART: Your Honor, the only understanding is  
24          that the government could have pursued a superseding  
25          indictment, and by them pleading today, the government is not

1       going forward with charges as to them in the superseding  
2       indictment.

3           THE COURT: Okay. Other than that, has anyone  
4       promised you what sentence you will receive, Mr. McCray?

5           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

6           THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

7           DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

8           THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

9           DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

10          THE COURT: Do you still want to plead guilty, Mr.  
11       McCray?

12          DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

13          THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

14          DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

15          THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

16          DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

17          THE COURT: Has anyone promised any of you anything  
18       or held out any hope of a reward to get you to plead guilty,  
19       Mr. McCray?

20          DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

21          THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

22          DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

23          THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

24          DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

25          THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you, or pressured

1       you, used force or intimidated you to try to get you to plead  
2 guilty, Mr. McCray?

3           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

4           THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

5           DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

6           THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

7           DEFENDANT COX: No, ma'am.

8           THE COURT: Have you each had enough time to decide  
9 whether you really do want to plead guilty, Mr. McCray?

10           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

11           THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

12           DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

13           THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

14           DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

15           THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty of your own free  
16 will and accord, Mr. McCray?

17           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

18           THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

19           DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

20           THE COURT: Mr. Cox?

21           DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

22           THE COURT: All right. Madam U.S. Attorney, I'd ask  
23 you to summarize the evidence for us.

24           MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

25           Had the government's case proceeded to trial, it

1 would've proven the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:  
2 Specifically, as to Count 1, which is the conspiracy charge,  
3 the government would have proven that, beginning on an exact  
4 date unknown to the government but from at least in or around  
5 January 2020, and continuing until at least February 24th,  
6 2022, which was the time of the defendant's arrest, in the  
7 District of South Carolina and elsewhere, the defendants,  
8 Frederick Wendell McCray, a/k/a, "Dub;" Tyrone Cox, a/k/a, "T"  
9 or "Player;" Kevin Williams Dukes, a/k/a, "KD," and other  
10 conspirators, known and unknown to the government, knowingly  
11 and intentionally did combine, conspire, agree and have a  
12 tacit understanding with each other and with others both known  
13 and unknown to the government, to knowingly, intentionally and  
14 unlawfully possess with intent to distribute and to distribute  
15 marijuana and heroin, both Schedule I controlled substances,  
16 and cocaine, cocaine base, commonly known as "crack cocaine;"  
17 and methamphetamine, all Schedule II controlled substances.

18 Specifically, a federal investigation revealed that  
19 at all times during the relevant period, Frederick McCray was  
20 the leader of a drug-trafficking organization based in a  
21 neighborhood called Ten Mile in North Charleston, South  
22 Carolina. McCray had an extensive clientele base and was  
23 involved in the distribution of cocaine, crack cocaine,  
24 heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana to numerous buyers and  
25 associates. McCray ensured that members of the

1 drug-trafficking organization, to include Kevin Dukes and  
2 others both named and unnamed in the indictment, were supplied  
3 with steady amounts of cocaine and crack cocaine for their own  
4 distribution. McCray relied on these individuals to  
5 distribute his cocaine. McCray also manufactured multiple  
6 ounce quantities of crack cocaine and had several locations  
7 that he used to cook his product.

8 During the relevant time period, McCray got his  
9 supply of cocaine from Tyrone Cox, as well as others,  
10 obtaining ounce quantities of cocaine at a time for  
11 redistribution. During the relevant time period, another  
12 defendant named in the indictment supplied and attempted to  
13 supply methamphetamine and other narcotics to McCray and other  
14 members of the drug-trafficking organization. As part of this  
15 federal investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation --  
16 or FBI -- obtained Court authorization to wire-tap Frederick  
17 McCray's known cellphone, referred to as "target phone one,"  
18 for 60 days; Kevin Dukes' known cellphone, referred to as  
19 "target phone two" for 30 days; and Tyrone Cox's known  
20 cellphone, referred to as "target phones five and six," for 30  
21 days.

22 Had the government proceeded to trial, it would have  
23 introduced the testimony of an agent, qualified as a drug  
24 expert, to testify as to certain commonly known street terms,  
25 or code language, for cocaine, cocaine base -- also known as

1       crack cocaine -- methamphetamine and heroin, as well as the  
2       weights and prices of these narcotics, and that the  
3       defendants, McCray, Cox and Dukes, each used intercepted wire  
4       communications to discuss the price and quantity of narcotics  
5       being distributed, housed, cooked and supplied in furtherance  
6       of the drug-trafficking conspiracy.

7               Agents would have testified, and the government would  
8       have introduced evidence, that, based on these calls, physical  
9       surveillance, statements of cooperators, confidential  
10       informants, controlled buys involving the defendants and drug  
11       seizures, that the following drug amounts are attributable to  
12       each defendant: Specifically, Frederick Wendell McCray,  
13       a/k/a, "Dub," was responsible for five kilograms or more of  
14       cocaine, 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, and a quantity  
15       of heroin. Defendant, Kevin Williams Dukes, was responsible  
16       for 500 grams or more of cocaine, a quantity of  
17       methamphetamine, and a quantity of heroin. And Tyrone Cox is  
18       responsible for five kilograms or more of cocaine.

19               THE COURT: Okay.

20               MS. STEWART: That's just Count 1.

21               THE COURT: Oh. Oh, lord. I can see why you wanted  
22       to do all these at once. Okay. I'm sorry. Do what you have  
23       to do.

24               MS. STEWART: No. That's fine.

25               As to Counts 2, 3 and 4, the government would have

1       established the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

2           THE COURT: And you can go slow. We're not in any  
3       big hurry.

4           MS. STEWART: Okay.

5           THE COURT: Just because I have a major hearing at  
6       3:00 -- I'm just teasing. They're all equally important.  
7       Just take your time. It's all good. The court reporter is  
8       the most important person in this room.

9           MS. STEWART: Yes, your Honor.

10          On October 20th, 2020, the North Charleston Police  
11       Department executed a search warrant at 1448 Bexley Street,  
12       the known residence of Frederick McCray. Prior to making  
13       contact at the residence, detectives conducted surveillance  
14       and observed McCray leaving the residence in a black Buick  
15       LaCrosse as the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle.  
16       After driving away from the residence, McCray stopped down the  
17       street at 4327 Spruill Avenue, where detectives made contact  
18       with him. McCray then openly stated to detectives that he had  
19       crack and a weapon in the vehicle and gave consent to search  
20       the vehicle. During the stop, McCray confirmed that he knew  
21       the firearm was in the glove box and that the crack was his.

22          During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered a  
23       clear bag containing approximately 74 grams of an off-white  
24       rock substance and a digital scale from the center console, as  
25       well as a firearm, which is a Ruger, model 5.7 times, a

1 28-millimeter pistol, loaded with the same millimeter  
2 ammunition in the glove box. Two cellphones were also  
3 recovered from the passenger seat of this vehicle. Officers  
4 also recovered \$1,166 in U.S. currency from McCray's person.  
5 Lab results confirmed -- and had the government gone to trial,  
6 they would've proven beyond a reasonable doubt -- that the  
7 rock substance seized from McCray was 64.77 grams net weight  
8 of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine.

9 Evidence that McCray possessed the firearm in  
10 furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime are as follows: The  
11 loaded firearm was physically proximate to the distribution  
12 quantities of crack cocaine. There was a large amount of U.S.  
13 currency and a digital scale, as well as the fact that McCray  
14 was a prohibited person carrying a firearm registered in his  
15 girlfriend's name. This is also supported by the fact that  
16 there were several wire communications of McCray, where he is  
17 repeatedly discussing the need to carry firearms and supply  
18 his drug-trafficking organization with firearms to protect the  
19 drug-trafficking organization and drug turf.

20 As to the 922(g) charge, the government would have  
21 proven beyond a reasonable doubt that McCray has numerous  
22 felony convictions that prohibit him from possessing a  
23 firearm, specifically including a 2004 conviction for  
24 distribution of cocaine, and a 2008 conviction for possession  
25 with intent to distribute cocaine base. Additionally, for his

1 2008 and 2004 felony convictions, McCray signed sentencing  
2 sheets acknowledging the Court's imposition of a sentence  
3 exceeding one year. And McCray also signed at least three Gun  
4 Control Act forms, dated April 5th, 2016; February 16th, 2006;  
5 and December 14th, 1999, acknowledging that he was prohibited  
6 from possessing a firearm or ammunition due to his status as a  
7 convicted felon. Law enforcement also confirmed with the  
8 South Carolina Department of Probation Parole and Pardon  
9 Services, that McCray has not received a pardon for any of his  
10 prior convictions.

11 As to the 922(g) charge, the government also proved  
12 that, based on an examination conducted by an ATF special  
13 agent on December 15th, 2021, both the firearm and ammunition  
14 recovered from McCray's vehicle and residence were not  
15 manufactured in South Carolina, and, therefore, traveled in  
16 interstate and/or foreign commerce. The agent also further  
17 examined the firearms and ammunition recovered and determined  
18 that they met the federal definitions of firearms and  
19 ammunition.

20 As to Counts 5, 6, 7 and 8, as to Defendant Cox, the  
21 government would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt the  
22 following facts: On October 28th, 2021, law enforcement  
23 executed a federal search warrant on two adjacent properties  
24 that Cox and a coconspirator used to store kilogram quantities  
25 of cocaine. These locations were 2316 Meeting Street Road in

1       North Charleston, which was also referred to as "Granny's  
2       House," and 2318 Meeting Street Road, which was a vacant lot  
3       that had two trailers on it, one open and one enclosed. In  
4       wire interceptions, Cox and his coconspirator specifically  
5       discussed kilograms of quantities of cocaine at the residence  
6       and trailer on these properties. There were also multiple  
7       intercepted phone calls of Cox telling a buyer to meet him at  
8       this location to supply them with narcotics.

9               And on October 28th, 2021, agents intercepted calls  
10      indicating that Cox was going to sell cocaine to another  
11      unknown male. Agents then observed Cox going in and out of  
12      his stash house and trailer. Cox then got into his vehicle,  
13      presumably to meet the unknown buyer. Agents coordinated with  
14      the North Charleston Police Department to conduct a vehicle  
15      stop of Cox. And a subsequent search when Cox was detained  
16      revealed small quantities of crack cocaine recovered from the  
17      scene. And during a search, they also recovered two  
18      cellphones from Cox's vehicle that were later identified as  
19      corresponding to target phones five and six.

20               During the execution of the search warrant, officers  
21      recovered suspected supplies for cooking crack cocaine, a  
22      third cell phone, cocaine powder, and suspected cocaine base  
23      inside the stash house, as well as a backpack containing  
24      suspected cocaine base and other narcotics in the enclosed  
25      trailer. Lab results confirmed -- and if the government went

1 to trial, they would've proven beyond a reasonable doubt --  
2 that the narcotics seized from Cox included 104.03 grams of  
3 net weight of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, and  
4 172.02 grams of net weight of cocaine powder, for a total of  
5 276 grams of cocaine total.

6 An unloaded Palmetto State Armory model PA-15 5.56  
7 caliber pistol with two extended magazines and a box of 5.56  
8 ammunition was recovered from the attic of this residence that  
9 was being used as a stash house above and in close proximity  
10 to the recovered guns. Had the government proceeded to trial,  
11 they would have introduced the following evidence to show that  
12 Cox possessed this firearm in furtherance of a  
13 drug-trafficking crime, specifically that the firearm was  
14 recovered in Cox's trap house, where Cox and his coconspirator  
15 would meet to store and pick up their supply of cocaine, cook  
16 powdered cocaine to convert it into cocaine base, and engaged  
17 in various drug transactions. Cox was also prohibited from  
18 possessing a firearm. Cox did not have permission from the  
19 owner of the property to reside at the house, providing  
20 further evidence that Cox possessed the firearm in furtherance  
21 of drug trafficking. And additionally, in at least one call,  
22 Cox and a coconspirator discussed gang violence related to  
23 drug activity and the need to protect themselves in case  
24 someone decided to violate them, by referring to ammunition,  
25 saying, "We need to start having ammunition laying around,"

1 and "That big mother-F-ing Bertha ain't gonna come out of the  
2 addict until a mother-f-er violates." This call clearly  
3 establishes that Cox had knowledge of the firearm and  
4 ammunition in the attic and were discussing the need to have  
5 it ready in the event that someone tried to interfere with  
6 their drug-trafficking organization.

7 As to the 922(g) charge, Cox had several prior felony  
8 convictions that prohibit him from possessing a firearm or  
9 ammunition. These include a 2012 conviction for trafficking  
10 cocaine base, a 2012 conviction for distribution of cocaine  
11 base, a 2008 conviction for possession with intent to  
12 distribute cocaine, and a 2004 conviction for assault on a  
13 police officer. Additionally, four of these felony  
14 convictions, Cox had signed sentencing sheets acknowledging  
15 the Court's imposition of a sentence exceeding one year. Cox  
16 has also signed at least five different Gun Control Act forms,  
17 dated in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2009 and 2015, acknowledging that  
18 he was prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition due  
19 to his status as a convicted felon. Law enforcement also  
20 confirmed with the South Carolina Department of Probation  
21 Parole and Pardon Services that, as of November 17th, 2021,  
22 Cox had not received a pardon for any of his prior  
23 convictions.

24 Further, the government would have proven that, on  
25 December 15th, 2021, an ATF agent examined the ammunition

1 recovered from the attic and in the possession of Cox and  
2 determined that this ammunition was not manufactured in South  
3 Carolina and, therefore, traveled in interstate and/or foreign  
4 commerce. He also examined the firearm and ammunition  
5 recovered and determined that they met the federal definitions  
6 of firearms and ammunition.

7 As to Count 10, for Mr. Cox, the government would  
8 have established the following facts beyond a reasonable  
9 doubt: On October 18th, 2021, the defendant, Demetric Gantt,  
10 called Tyrone Cox, his narcotic supplier, to purchase 5 ounces  
11 of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, for  
12 redistribution. This phone call was intercepted pursuant to a  
13 court order authorizing the interception of wire  
14 communications on Cox's cellphone. Shortly after this call,  
15 law enforcement conducted physical surveillance of Gantt and  
16 observed him meeting with Cox at the parking lot of  
17 Burlington's at Northwoods Mall in North Charleston, South  
18 Carolina.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Hang on. Time out.

20 If you guys want to sit down, y'all can sit down.

21 MS. STEWART: Getting close, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. They've just been standing a  
23 long time there in shackles and all that.

24 DEFENDANT COX: Thank you, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: You're welcome.

1                   All right. Go ahead.

2                   MS. STEWART: The physical surveillance also was  
3                   captured on video. Gantt's Dodge Challenger pulled up to the  
4                   parking lot, and then Cox's black Dodge Ram pulled up near  
5                   him. Video surveillance captured Gantt going into Cox's truck  
6                   to conduct the drug transaction. Gantt was then observed  
7                   conducting a followup deal with an unidentified third party.  
8                   North Charleston Police Department then conducted a traffic  
9                   stop of Gantt immediately after he left and recovered three of  
10                   the 5 ounces of crack cocaine. Lab results confirmed that had  
11                   the government gone to trial, they would have proven beyond a  
12                   reasonable doubt that the rock substance seized from Gantt and  
13                   supplied by Cox was 79.28 grams net weight of cocaine base,  
14                   also known as crack cocaine.

15                   As to the wire communication counts, the government  
16                   also would have proven that, on or about the dates that will  
17                   be detailed by the government, in the district of South  
18                   Carolina, the named defendants knowingly and intentionally did  
19                   use a communication facility, to wit, a cell phone, to  
20                   facilitate the commission of a felony under the Controlled  
21                   Substances Act, to wit, conspiracy to possess with intent to  
22                   distribute, possession with intent to distribute, and  
23                   distribution of controlled substances. First, as to Count 16,  
24                   there was a recorded call transmission on August 11th, 2021,  
25                   labeled as "session 1861 on target phone one," which recorded

1 a communication between coconspirators Brown and Frederick  
2 McCray. In this call, Frederick McCray and Brown are  
3 discussing the police being on scene, and Coconspirator Brown  
4 is warning McCray, who is about to engage in a drug  
5 transaction, that he is going towards where the police are at,  
6 and Brown was advising McCray in this call to go a different  
7 direction so that he is not apprehended by police.

8 As to Count 17, this is a call that was intercepted  
9 on August 20th, 2021, session number 3757 on target phone one  
10 between McCray and Kevin Dukes. And in this call, Dukes is  
11 asking McCray to supply him with an ounce, referred to as  
12 "one" on the call of cocaine base, to resell for 1100 dollars,  
13 referred to in the call as "eleven." McCray tells Dukes to  
14 meet him to pick up the narcotics.

15 In Count 18, in a call that was intercepted on August  
16 20th, 2021, session number 3827 on target phone one, between  
17 Frederick McCray and coconspirator, LaJustin Williams. In  
18 that call, Williams is discussing how he has five bricks,  
19 which was code for pounds of "ice" or "cream," which is known  
20 commonly as methamphetamine, that he wanted McCray to help him  
21 sell. Following this call, agents followed McCray to  
22 Williams' house, where the call indicated they discussed  
23 prices of Williams's methamphetamine on the same date.

24 As to Count 20, which was a call that was intercepted  
25 on August 28th, 2021, session number 6042 on target phone one,

1       between Frederick McCray and coconspirator, Terrell Myers,  
2       they are discussing the fact that -- McCray is discussing the  
3       fact that coconspirator, LaJustin Williams, also known as  
4       "Smurf," has six bricks of ice that he can't sell and he wants  
5       Myers' and McCray's drug conspiracy, or drug-trafficking  
6       organization, to sell that ice.

7               For Count No. 21, the call that was intercepted on  
8       September 3rd, 2021, was session number 7584 on target phone  
9       five. It's between McCray and Tyrone Cox, which is discussing  
10      -- McCray is asking Cox to supply him with cocaine for two  
11      narcotic sales, one for an ounce of cocaine base, which is  
12      referred to in the call as "hard," for 1400; and another for  
13      an ounce and a half of cocaine powder, which is referred to in  
14      the call as "soft." In response, Cox says that he has to open  
15      up a kilo, which he refers to as "the shit" to complete the  
16      sale.

17               As to Count 22, which is also a wire count, it was  
18       intercepted on September 14th, 2021, session number 9536 on  
19       target phone one, between McCray and Co-Defendant Small1s.  
20       They are discussing -- McCray is asking Small1s if he has  
21      narcotics for sale. Small1s tells McCray that all he has left  
22      is 7 grams of powdered cocaine, which is referred to on the  
23      call as "clean;" 28 grams of crack cocaine, which on the call  
24      is referred to as "Turkey" and "made" (*phonetic*) as well.  
25       Earlier calls to Cox and others around that time indicate that

1 McCray was out of cocaine, which was referred to as "product,"  
2 and needed to buy some from Smalls. Shortly thereafter,  
3 Smalls was observed and filmed by agents as he arrived to  
4 McCray's trap house to sell cocaine.

5 As to Count 23, it's an intercepted call on September  
6 15th, 2021, session number 9788 on target phone one, between  
7 McCray and coconspirator, Clarence Walker. Walker was  
8 surveilled on numerous occasions at a stationary pole camera  
9 but specifically the day before this call. And in this call,  
10 he is talking about the fact that he sold all of his crack and  
11 needs a resupply from McCray.

12 As to Count 24, which is an intercepted count, on  
13 September 21, 2021, session number 10967, target phone one,  
14 between McCray and coconspirator, Myers, in the call, McCray  
15 is discussing how Myers needs to keep selling ounces of  
16 cocaine to an individual named "Blaze," because he  
17 consistently buys ounces, which he refers to as "ones." Myers  
18 confirms that he recently gave Blaze an ounce for 950.

19 In Count 26, an intercepted call on October 8, 2021,  
20 session number 197, target phone five, between McCray and Cox,  
21 McCray is discussing buying an ounce, which he refers to as  
22 "one," of cocaine for redistribution. Cox is complaining  
23 about having to open a kilo, which he refers to as "the shit"  
24 (*phonetic*) or "brick" of cocaine to supply McCray.

25 As to Count 27, which was intercepted on October

1       18th, 2021, session number 2931, target phone six, between Cox  
2 and coconspirator, Demetric Gantt, in the call Gantt is  
3 telling Cox that he needs two ounces of cocaine base to sell  
4 right away, which he referred to two of them, saying: I'm  
5 going to resort them real fast for somebody. And then he  
6 needed an additional three ounces for himself: "Three of them  
7 things for me." After this call, law enforcement conducted  
8 the physical surveillance that was described previously that  
9 is the basis for Count 10.

10           As to Count 28, it's an intercepted call on October  
11 24th, 2021, session number 1611, target phone five, between  
12 Cox and his coconspirator, Tyrone Wilson. They are discussing  
13 -- Cox is telling Wilson that he needs to meet him to access  
14 multiple kilograms of cocaine, which he refers to in the call  
15 as "Djangos" or "keys" for distribution that Wilson is  
16 holding.

17           THE COURT: Okay. And y'all can stay seated if you'd  
18 like.

19           Mr. McCray, do you agree with the prosecutor's  
20 summary of what you did?

21           DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

22           THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

23           DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

24           THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

25           DEFENDANT COX:

1                   THE COURT: And do any of y'all have any questions  
2 for the prosecutor, Mr. McCray?

3                   DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

4                   THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

5                   DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

6                   THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

7                   DEFENDANT COX: No.

8                   THE COURT: Have you understood all my questions, Mr.  
9 McCray?

10                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

11                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

12                  DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

13                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

14                  DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

15                  THE COURT: Do you have any questions for me before  
16 we go on, Mr. McCray?

17                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: No, ma'am.

18                  THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

19                  DEFENDANT DUKES: No, ma'am.

20                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

21                  DEFENDANT COX: No.

22                  THE COURT: All right. And how do you wish to plead,  
23 Mr. McCray?

24                  DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Guilty.

25                  THE COURT: And, Mr. Dukes?

1 DEFENDANT DUKES: Guilty.

2 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

3 DEFENDANT COX: Guilty.

4 THE COURT: And are you guilty, Mr. McCray?

5 DEFENDANT MCCRAY: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Dukes?

7 DEFENDANT DUKES: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: And, Mr. Cox?

9 DEFENDANT COX: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: It's the finding of the Court in the  
11 cases of United States vs. Frederick Wendell McCray, and Kevin  
12 William Dukes, and Tyrone Cox, that each defendant is fully  
13 competent and capable of entering informed pleas. Their pleas  
14 are knowing and voluntary pleas, supported by an independent  
15 basis in fact and containing each of the essential elements of  
16 the offense. Their pleas are accepted, and they're now  
17 adjudged guilty of those offenses.

18 So, you all are required to appear for sentencing.  
19 And written presentence reports are going to be prepared now  
20 by probation. So, you're going to be asked to give  
21 information to the officers for those reports. But your  
22 lawyers can be present with you during any questioning by the  
23 U.S. probation officers, if you wish. And you and your  
24 lawyers will be able to read those presentence reports and  
25 file any objections to them prior to sentencing. And I'll be

1 happy to hear from each of you or your family members at the  
2 sentencing hearings. Okay? So, you're all now referred on to  
3 probation. Thank you.

4 Anything else?

5 MS. STEWART: No, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MR. TOPOREK: May I approach, your Honor?

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 \* \* \* \* \*

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11 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
12 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

13

s/Lisa D. Smith,

6/7/2023

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Lisa D. Smith, RPR, CRR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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